

benefits, higher education, business licenses in about 2 dozen fields, and even the right of self-defense.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the House to pass H.R. 274 to show that this chamber and our Nation support the Baha'i people and stand with them in the face of Iran's tyranny.

PROSTATE CANCER DISPARITY

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I met with the Prostate Health Education Network and leaders from across the country who are on the frontlines of the fight against prostate cancer.

It is critical for African American men and their families that leaders like us raise awareness and funding to end the racial disparity in prostate cancer research.

African American men are more likely to get prostate cancer, are diagnosed at more advanced stages, and are twice as likely to die as our Caucasian counterparts.

Fighting cancer requires sustained efforts at all levels to raise awareness to ensure individuals and their families have quality and affordable access to screening and treatment.

It is critical that Congress continues putting resources toward ending racial disparity in prostate cancer and healthcare more generally.

THANKING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERN

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the public often has the impression that we in Congress are not caring people who work together on issues. I want to say to the American people that in the last few days, you could not find a group of people more concerned about their fellow Members than we have here.

We know this hurricane is hitting North Carolina, it is likely to hit South Carolina and possibly Georgia, and I want people to know how much I appreciate Members on both sides of the aisle who have come up to me to ask what impact this is going to have on me, on my district, on the people of my district, and on North Carolina in general.

It is very heartwarming to have those concerns expressed. People have said, "We are praying for you."

I know that is the case throughout the country, but I want to particularly say to all of my colleagues—I thanked them all personally—but to all of my colleagues, those who haven't spoken to me but have spoken to other Members, thank you very much for your concerns and prayers. I certainly will pass those along to my constituents,

but I think it is important that people know we care a great deal about each other and we express that to each other.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MAST). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of our country's veterans, who make great sacrifices to keep America safe.

When they return home from service, it is our responsibility to ensure they receive the care and support of a grateful Nation. For far too many veterans, that responsibility is not fulfilled. The government's failure has tragic consequences for those struggling with mental health illnesses.

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Americans across the country take time to raise awareness about the tragedy of suicide. We lose an estimated 20 veterans to suicide each day, and that is unacceptable.

Every year since I have been in Congress, we have brought together Republicans and Democrats to draw attention to veteran suicide and send a clear message that this epidemic must end.

Honoring our commitment to veterans is not a partisan issue. We know the only way to achieve real, lasting change for our Nation's bravest men and women is to bring both parties together to solve this problem.

Today, Members from both sides of the aisle have joined me to bring awareness to veteran suicide and we are working together to find solutions. I know we can make bipartisan progress, because we have done it before. We have shown it is possible for both parties to work together to improve veterans' mental healthcare.

After hearing the tragic story of a young Arizona veteran who lost his life to suicide in 2013, my team worked across the aisle to pass a bill that improved lifesaving VA mental health services for veterans with classified experience. It took 3 years of hard work, but our bill is now law, and it helps veterans successfully transition to civilian life.

It is important progress, but there is still so much work left to do.

We must serve our bravest men and women, just as they have served us.

We challenge the VA, the Department of Defense, and our fellow lawmakers to join us in confronting the tragedy of veteran suicide. We must do more to honor our commitment to American's veterans.

Today and every day, we stand with military families who have lost a loved one to the tragedy of suicide, and we say to you, your family's sacrifice will not be forgotten. We will not stop until every veteran receives the care that he or she needs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), my friend and colleague, and I am grateful to be joined this afternoon in this Special Order for his comments.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak of a solemn topic, one of utmost importance for sure, and I want to thank my colleague and my friend, KYRSTEN SINEMA from Arizona, and for all the work that she is doing for the veterans' community and for hosting this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's veterans are our finest citizens, to whom we owe the most. Their sacrifice in defense of freedom allows us to stand here today in this chamber, a testament to our values and a symbol of hope.

All too often, we see our Nation's veterans struggle upon their return home. Issues with depression, substance abuse, and post-traumatic stress disorder serve as constant reminders of the price they paid to protect our way of life.

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Tragically, we have seen a rising percentage of these heroes resorting to taking their own lives. This is beyond unacceptable and statistics paint a grim picture of this epidemic.

Between 2005 and 2015, Mr. Speaker, suicide rates for all veterans increased by 25 percent—25 percent between 2005 and 2015. Additionally, veterans account for nearly 15 percent of suicides in U.S. adults.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better, and we must do better. I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues in solidarity against veteran suicide. I am thankful for the establishment of the third Veterans Crisis Line call center to provide guidance, support, and critical resources to those in need. While steps are being taken to prevent veteran suicide, we still have a long way to go because one hero's death is one too many.

As Congresswoman KYRSTEN SINEMA had pointed out, Mr. Speaker, September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, but this issue will continue to transcend any time frame. For those who sacrificed for us, we owe them and will continue to fight to eradicate this public health crisis of veteran suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I want to, once again, thank Congresswoman SINEMA for hosting this Special Order.

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, for many veterans, the return to civilian life can feel overwhelming. Ensuring enough community support and mental health resources are available is essential.

We recently heard from Andrew, who lives in Chandler, Arizona. He joined the Marine Corps at 17 years old when he said he was "full of motivation and excitement" to serve. "I wanted to do my part to protect America," Andrew said.

As an antitank assaultman, Andrew fought beside incredible marines in Iraq, and when he finally returned